



City of Sidney, MT
City Council Regular Meeting 4-3-23
April 03, 2023 6:30 PM
115 2nd Street SE | Sidney, MT 59270

The City Council meetings are open to the public attending in person, with masks encouraged when social distancing cannot be accomplished. If the public does not wish to participate in person, they are also invited to participate via a Zoom meeting. You can participate via phone:

Meeting ID: 813 4331 4039 Passcode: 4332809 Call: 1-346-248-7799

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Norby called the regular meeting of the Sidney City Council to order at 6:30pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all present.

3. **Aldermen Present**

DiFonzo, Rasmussen, Koffler, Stevenson, Godfrey and Christensen

4. **Correction or Approval of Minutes**

a. **March 20th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

5. **Visitors**

a. **Chamber-Sunrise Festival in Veteran's Park 2023**

Chamber Executive Director Godfrey stated they are wanting to have a Sunset Festival in place of the Sunrise Festival this year in Veteran's Park. She stated this would be July 22nd, 2023 from 4pm to midnight with time before to set-up. She stated they would like permission to have the streets north and south of the park blocked for food vendors and trailers for merchandise vendors, and they would also need additional garbage cans, use of the pavilion, sounds system

and bathrooms. She stated they would like to serve alcohol in a controlled part of the park with extra security and a roped off area that Chief Kraft has already approved their plan for such.

Motion was made to approve the request of the Chamber for the Sunset Festival in Veteran's Park for July 22nd, 2023.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Christensen

Voting Abstaining: Alderwoman Godfrey

b. Other Visitors

Greg Hitchcock - Sidney Herald Editor

Jordan Mayer-Interstate Engineering

Sidney Schools: Emma Doty, Mason Kindopp, Allison Lander, Whitney VanHook, Payton Syth, Lexi Morlock and Kailey Olson

6. Public Hearing

Nothing.

7. Mayor Norby

a. Update

Mayor Norby stated he and staff are following and participating in the legislature closely, as there are many attacks on local government mill levy revenue that could drastically affect the City's general fund revenue.

8. Committee Meeting Work

Nothing.

9. Alderman Requests and Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation – Chairman Difonzo – Godfrey, Christensen | **Water and Sewer** – Chairman Koffler – Godfrey, Rasmussen

Street and Alley – Chairman Christensen– Difonzo, Stevenson | **Sanitation** – Chairman Rasmussen – Koffler, Stevenson

City Buildings & Street Lighting – Chairman Stevenson– Koffler, Rasmussen | **Police and Fire** – Chairman Godfrey, Godfrey, Difonzo, Christensen

Budget and Finance – Chairman Christensen – Rasmussen, Godfrey

Alderman DiFonzo stated he was approached by a constituent who read the previous meeting's minutes pertaining to the ice rink in Quilling's Park and the constituent brought up the need for the warming house/bathrooms in the park to be upgraded and to have them open to the public more. PWD Hintz stated there are plans for the improvements to the building, but due to cost they have not been moved forward on. Alderman DiFonzo asked if Quilling's Park has a sprinkler system to improve the grass in the field where the rink is usually located and PWD Hintz state there is not currently due to the flooding and freezing of that area for the old way of doing the rink. It was discussed looking into either getting or expanding the current sprinkler system for the open area of Quilling's Park.

10. Unfinished Business

Nothing.

11. New Business

Nothing.

12. City Planner

a. Planning Board Meeting-April 4th at 7pm

PWD Hintz announced the Planning Board meeting and stated the agenda for which is posted on the front door of City Hall.

b. Byer-Windsong Lot Aggregation

PWD Hintz presented to the City Council the Byer-Windsong lot aggregation. He stated these two individuals own properties that had a lot in-between them that could not be built upon due to a sewer easement running down the middle of the property. He stated these two purchased the lot and are splitting the lot along the sewer easement and combining each side with their own lots. He further stated Planner Sanderson has recommended approval.

Motion was made to approve.

Motion made by Alderwoman Godfrey, Seconded by Alderman Koffler.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

13. City Attorney

a. Update

City Attorney Kalil stated he has items that he has been working on several items that will be on the next agenda. He further stated that he has reviewed the snow removal code and believes that when combined with the newly re-done nuisance ordinance, the City has standing to go after properties for pushing snow into the street or causing obstructions. PWD Hintz stated he would like to review the codes with City Attorney Kalil.

Motion was made to send the snow removal code to the Street and Alley Committee after review from City Attorney Kalil and PWD Hintz.

Motion made by Alderwoman Rasmussen, Seconded by Alderwoman Christensen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

14. Chief of Police

a. Confirmation of James Drager as Patrol Officer with the Sidney Police Department

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated Chief Kraft is requesting the confirmation of James Drager as he is graduating from the Montana Police Academy this week.

Motion was made to confirm James Drager to the Sidney Police Department.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderwoman Rasmussen.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

b. Drug Task Force MOU Liability changes from MMIA

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated after sending MMIA the MOU for the Drug Task Force Officer, they recommended a change in the liability section. She stated that change was sent to the Eastern MT Drug Task Force/DOJ-DCI and they have approved these changes also. She stated they are looking for final approval to move forward with the drug task force officer position with the update on the liability section of the MOU and once the MOU is completed and updated it will come back to the City Council for final approval.

Motion was made to approve the liability section changes of the MOU and the Drug Task Force officer position.

Motion made by Alderman DiFonzo, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

15. Public Works Director

a. Update

PWD Hintz stated he met with the streets department and they outlined the areas of town they will be paving this year. Locations include 4 blocks on 4th Ave, 10th Street and 8th Ave, 2nd St NE (if VFW completes their sidewalk and curb/gutter project) and 7th Ave SW. He stated they also plan to do areas that have had water/sewer projects done recently. PWD Hintz stated the

sewer vac truck is back after being down for 3 months and the garbage tonnage was the lowest in March since 2016.

Mr. Mayer stated they had the Phase 3 Water Project pre-construction meeting on Friday and the contractor still plans to move forward in the next couple of weeks. He stated they have moved around the schedules to best serve the areas that are going to be affected. He further stated that because this will affect the water at several locations including businesses, they will be putting out flyers, have QR codes for updates and be utilizing social media to keep the public informed. PWD Hintz stated the City will also be putting in an additional valve on West Holly and 2nd to lesson the amount of time North Central area will be out of water.

16. Fire Marshal/Building Inspector

Nothing.

17. City Clerk/Treasurer

a. Tiger Sharks Swim Team-selling pool tickets April 4th and 5th

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin stated they will be going to sell pool passes at the Swim Team sign-ups April 4th and 5th from 5-7pm, as getting pool passes is a requirement for all in swim team. She stated doing this is helpful to swim team parents and to them in the office.

b. FY2023-24 Health Insurance Increase of 9%

Clerk/Treasurer Chamberlin provided the City Council with the fiscal year 2023-24 health insurance increase of 9% with no increases on the other insurances. She stated usually at this time she would be calling for committee meetings to start the budget process, but as Mayor Norby stated, there are too many uncertainties in funding to call for any meetings at this point. She stated once there is a better understanding of the legislations passed and new rules, she will start calling for committee meetings, but that this could put pressure on the budget timeline the City Council is not used to.

18. Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the claims and building permits.

Motion made by Alderman Koffler, Seconded by Alderman Stevenson.

Voting Yea: Alderman Koffler, Alderwoman Rasmussen, Alderman DiFonzo, Alderman Stevenson, Alderwoman Godfrey, Alderwoman Christensen

a. Claims to be approved: \$35,504.79

b. Building Permits to be approved: 2023-42, 2023-45 and RC2023-24

19. Adjournment

at 6:57pm.